

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6820

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 16730

LIMDIS

FOR WINSTON LORD FROM SPIERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: US-UK PLANNING TALKS

REF: STATE 278970

1. WE APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE AGENDA FOR US-UK PLANNING TALKS NEXT MONTH, WHICH IS VERY COMPREHENSIVE AND COVERS MOST OF THE MAJOR SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO THE BRITISH AS WELL AS OURSELVES. WE HAVE ONLY A FEW OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE AGENDA ITEMS.

2. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: BRITISH VIEWS ON THIS RANGE OF TOPICS ARE FOR THE MOST PART PRETTY MUCH IN HARMONY WITH OUR OWN. WE WOULD NOTE THAT US AND UK PROPOSALS ON RECYCLING PETRO-FUNDS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT, THOUGH FCO MAY NOT WISH TO EXPLORE THIS SUBJECT IN DEPTH WITHOUT HM TREASURY PRESENT. BRITISH, LIKE REST OF WESTERN EUROPE, ALSO ARE MUCH CONCERNED TO MINIMIZE CONFRONTATIONAL ASPECTS OF OIL CONSUMER-PRODUCER RELATIONSHIP AND YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SPEAK TO THEIR CONCERNS IN THIS AREA.

3. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION AND THE TRANS-ATLANTIC CONNECTION: UNDER THIS HEADING THERE ARE TWO MATTERS ON WHICH YOU MIGHT WISH TO PROBE THE

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BRITISH THINKING. (A) WHAT CONCEPT DO BRITISH PLANNERS

HAVE FOR THE SHAPE OF BRITISH RELATIONS WITH EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES IF BRITAIN WERE TO LEAVE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY? THIS IS A SENSITIVE SUBJECT, BUT IT MIGHT BE WORTH INFORMAL DISCUSSION OUTSIDE THE OFFICIAL SESSIONS, AT LEAST. (B) WHAT ARE THE BRITISH IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO CONTAIN DAMAGE TO THE NATO ALLIANCE IF ANOTHER WAR BREAKS OUT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IF THE US AND THE EUROPEANS REACT TO IT WITH DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS AND ACTIONS. THE BRITISH SEEM INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THIS SUBJECT, JUDGING FROM REMARKS MADE TO THE SECRETARY BY AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM LAST MONTH.

4. EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS: WE AND THE BRITISH SEEM TO BE PRETTY MUCH IN AGREEMENT ABOUT SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURE IN CSCE. HOWEVER, YOU MAY WANT TO EXPLORE THEIR IDEAS ABOUT FOLLOW-UP TO CSCE, A MATTER ON WHICH THEY SEEM TO BE DIVERGING FROM THE US IN THAT THEY SEE A NEED FOR A MORE ACTIVE FOLLOW-UP AFTER STAGE III THAN DO WE.

SPIERS

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